

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 28 are pending in the case. The Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 14 to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicants regard as their invention. Support for the present amendments is found throughout the present specification and claims, as originally filed. No new matter has been added and no additional claims fees are believed to be due. The Applicants strongly believe that the present amendments have placed the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, timely and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC § 103(a) over Wisotzki

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-12 and 14-27 under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over US Patent Number 4,900,545 to Wisotzki et al (hereinafter "Wisotzki"). The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

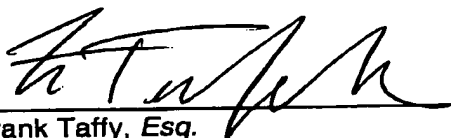
The Applicants respectfully submit that Wisotzki fails to teach or suggest the polymers of the claimed system, characterized by a water vapor transfer rate of less than 10 g-mm/m²-day and a glass transition temperature, T_g , of greater than about 30°C, as approximated by the Fox Formula – now an essential element of Claims 1 and 14. In this respect, the Applicants wish to direct the distinguished Examiner's attention to the "Amendments" section of the instant paper, in which the Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 14 of the present application, from which the balance of the rejected claims ultimately depend, to underscore the method with which the glass transition temperature, T_g , of the present polymers is approximated. Support for the present inclusion of the glass transition temperature approximation formula into the claims is found at page 5 of the specification. In light of the present amendments, the Applicants wish to reiterate that Wisotzki neither teaches nor suggests a polymer characterized by a glass transition temperature of greater than about 30°, as approximated using the Fox formula. Further, the Applicants submit that the Examiner has yet to identify how the polyvinyl pyrrolidone (PVP) compound purportedly disclosed by Wisotzki satisfies the limitations of the instant claims as amended, particularly with regard to glass transition temperature, T_g , and water vapor transpiration rates. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to Claims 1-12 And 14-27 under 35 USC § 103(a) are therefore respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Attached hereto at the conclusion of this communication is a separate sheet entitled "Version With Markings To Indicate Changes Made." Applicants have made an earnest effort to place the present claims in condition for allowance. WHEREFORE, entry of the amendments provided herewith, reconsideration of the claims as amended in light of the Remarks provided, withdrawal of the claims objections, and allowance of Claims 1-28, as amended, are respectfully requested. In the event that issues remain prior to allowance of the noted claims, then the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' undersigned attorney to discuss any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

STEVEN DARYL SMITH, et al.

By 
Frank Taffy, Esq.
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 52,270
(513) 634-9315

Customer No. 27752

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO INDICATE CHANGES MADE

Claim 1. A system for controlling plant and flower moisture transpiration, said system comprising:

- c) a first component in the form of a solution, said solution applied to the surface of a plant or flower exposed to air, said first component comprising:
- iii) a polymer having a water vapor transfer rate of less than 10g-mm/m²-day and a glass transition temperature, T_g , greater than about 30° C;
 - iv) the balance carriers and adjunct ingredients;

wherein said polymer is in the form of a microemulsion having a particle size less than 400 nanometers;

further wherein said glass transition temperature, T_g , is approximated using the following formula:

$$\frac{1}{T_{Co}} = \frac{W_1}{T_1} + \frac{W_2}{T_2} + \dots + \frac{W_n}{T_n}$$

wherein W_1 represents the weight portion of monomer 1, W_2 represents the weight portion of monomer 2, T_1 the glass transition temperature of the polymerized monomer 1 in °K, T_2 the glass transition temperature of the polymerized monomer 2 in °K, T_{Co} the glass transition temperature of the copolymer in °K and;

- d) a second component comprising:

- iii) a source of energy for the plant or flower being treated;
- iv) an antimicrobial;

wherein said second component is dissolved in water to form a solution and into which solution is placed the plant or flower to be preserved.

Claim 14. A system for controlling plant and flower moisture transpiration, said system comprising:

- a) a first component in the form of a solution, said solution applied to the surface of a plant or flower exposed to air, said first component comprising:
- i) from about 0.01% to about 20% by weight, of a polymer such that the water vapor transfer rate and glass transition temperature, T_g , of said polymer define a point to the left of a line having the equation:
 $y = -0.068443x + 10$
 wherein the ordinate, x , is the glass transition temperature and the abscissa, y , is the water vapor transfer rate of said polymer;
 - ii) the balance carriers and adjunct ingredients;
- wherein said glass transition temperature is approximated using the following formula:

$$\frac{1}{T_{Co}} = \frac{W_1}{T_1} + \frac{W_2}{T_2} + \dots + \frac{W_n}{T_n}$$

wherein W_1 represents the weight portion of monomer 1, W_2 represents the weight portion of monomer 2, T_1 the glass transition temperature of the polymerized monomer 1 in °K, T_2 the glass transition temperature of the polymerized monomer 2 in °K, T_{Co} the glass transition temperature of the copolymer in °K; and

b) a second component comprising:

- i) a source of energy for the plant or flower being treated;
- ii) an antimicrobial;

wherein said second component is dissolved in water to form a solution and into which solution is placed the plant or flower to be preserved.